



April, 1996

Volume XXVII, No. 3

FREE

Feds Vow Tighter Security For Potrero Public Housing

By Michael Mattis

Although plans were only in the draft stage at View press time, San Francisco Housing Authority and police officials say residents at Potrero Terrace and Annex can expect some changes in the wake of the authority's restructuring.

The Housing Authority Commission, at the request of Mayor Willie Brown, relinquished control of the agency by voting itself out of existence March 8. Housing Authority Executive Director Shirley Thornton, an apprentice of former Mayor Frank Jordan, resigned March 4.

The agency is now under the direct control of the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development, and is headed by HUD executive Kevin Marchman. The "city that knows how" has also borrowed talent from Oakland, in the form of Jon Gresley, deputy executive director of the Oakland Housing Authority since 1980. Gresley is in charge of day-to-day operations at the local level. A 10-15 member "restructuring team," made up of HUD officials from across the nation, is expected to stay at the agency for 18 months.

Proposed changes citywide include making some of the most troubled developments into "gated communities," involving fences, checkpoints and identification cards for residents. Adoption of a "one strike" policy for evicting drug and other offenders, the installation of an "anonymous tip line" to report crimes, and the creation of resident patrols are further security measures now in the works at the agency.

"All that stuff is essentially very preliminary and I don't think anyone here knows what the final version is going to look like," said Housing Authority spokesperson Ron Sonnenshine. "There's 40-plus developments, so you can't say what's good for Potrero is good for some other place."

Neither Potrero Terrace nor Potrero Annex are likely to become gated communities because their physical geographies are too complicated, police said. "The buildings at Potrero would have to be re-configured for a gated community to work," said police Special Operations Sgt. Michael Slade. Slade notes gated communities are common in privately owned condominium complexes throughout the city.

Slade said the major roadblock that police have faced in dealing with criminal activity on Housing Authority property

is that the agency has consistently failed to enforce eviction rules for drug and other offenders. Marchman, however, has vowed to institute a "one strike, you're out" policy to oust offenders from Agency-owned apartments.

The problem, say some Potrero Terrace and Annex residents, is that offenders often don't live legally on the premises. Rather, they have moved in temporarily with a relative, or use the relative's apartment as a refuge. If the offender is caught, the leaseholder is then, technically, subject to eviction. Until now evictions have been rare, but Marchman promises to hold leaseholders responsible for their guests.

"I don't care if this person is on the lease or not," said Slade. "The fact is, if he's with grandma and conducting dope business there, it's obvious she should know what's going on. In that case, grandma's going to be facing eviction. And she can be subject to arrest by maintaining a place where narcotics are sold."

Reaction to the policy among Potrero Terrace and Annex residents has been cautious.

"That's pretty harsh," said Oscarynne Williams, who runs a day care center in Potrero Annex, "but if someone is doing something wrong and causing problems in your home, then you need to do what you need to do to secure a place to live."

"It could be a blessing to some and a curse to others," said Williams.

Slade said the police department is working on a computerized anonymous tip line that uses a number system to allow residents to make frequent callbacks without revealing their identity. With the system, said Slade, callers will be able to "follow up on the disposition of their complaints."

Resident patrols are another proposal in the works for Potrero Hill's public housing. The patrols would be organized by a paid resident under the direction of Project SAFE, a civilian-run agency that works with police. Slade stressed the patrols would not be responsible for enforcing laws, but would rather "keep police apprised as kind of an ear in the community."

Oscarynne Williams was skeptical of such a program's effectiveness, citing residents' fears of reprisal.

"They're not going to tell the police," she said. "Residents use extreme caution when they're observing stuff people are doing that they shouldn't be doing."

ST. TERESA'S SISTER KATHLEEN TO BE HONORED IN APRIL



A dinner honoring the works of Sister Kathleen Healey of Potrero Hill's St. Teresa's Church takes place April 26. See story on Page 5 for details.

Nabe to Honor Activists At April 20 Fundraiser

The Potrero Hill Neighborhood House will honor local business people and community activists at a special buffet-reception Saturday, April 20 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

This special "Universe of Thanks," saluting the contributions that all have made to both the Potrero Hill community and the Neighborhood House, begins at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails, followed by a dinner featuring foods from around the world and live entertainment.

Honorees include:

- * Hill natives Joe and Robin Talmadge, who have a long history of involvement with both Potrero Hill schools and social service agencies.
- * Susie Tompkins, owner and founder of Esprit de Corp., one of the world's largest sportswear manufacturers, who is well known for her commitment to issues as diverse as arts education for children, AIDS awareness, women's social and economic issues, and environmental responsibility.
- * Former Peace Corps volunteer and longtime Potrero Hill resident and pilot, Peter Firth, who has been active in numerous community

organizations on the Hill including the Good Life Alliance, the San Francisco Organizing Project at St. Teresa's parish, the Neighborhood House Board of Directors, and the Potrero View.

- * Political activist and photographer Bob Hayes, who is well known in the community for more than 20 years of service at the Neighborhood House.

"We are proud to honor such diversity and commitment," says NABE Executive Director Enola D. Maxwell. "Each one of these individuals, beyond their contributions to both Potrero Hill and the larger community, represents a positive energy that is so necessary in these difficult times."

This celebration, which will be MC'd by Sheriff Mike Hennessey, is a fundraiser for the ongoing programs at the Neighborhood House, a community center offering a wide range of services to the Potrero Hill community, and home to the Omega Boys and Girls Club. For ticket prices and more information and reservations call Theresa or Ruth at (415) 826-8080.

How Potrero
Hill Voted
- See Page 4



"THEY WANT TO KNOW IF WE'RE GOING TO THE GIANTS GAME, OR JUST VISITING POTRERO HILL..."

GETTING INVOLVED

ROSES (Residents of the Southeast Sector) meets the first Thursday of each month (April 4) with members of the San Francisco Police Department, to discuss issues of public concern. Meetings take place at 7 p.m. in the Community College meeting room — downstairs, at 1800 Oakdale at Phelps, off Bayshore. This month's speaker will be Officer Paul Swiatko, on the subject of "Nuisance Crimes." For more info, call Officer Yulanda Williams, 553-1021.

Potrero Hill Parents Assn. will hold its annual Spring Community Festival on Saturday, April 6 in the Jackson Park Recreation Center, Arkansas & Mariposa Sts. Come, celebrate with a Pot-luck Brunch, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more info, call the PHPA hotline, 241-8820.

Potrero Hill Health Center Advisory Board meets the second Monday of the month (April 8) from 6 - 7 p.m. Meetings, held at the Center at 1050 Wisconsin St., are always open to the public. This month's agenda will focus on the urgent problems posed by the impending cuts in the City Health budget, including the threatened elimination of the minimal dental services now offered.

Potrero Hill Democratic Club meets the second Tuesday of each month (April 9) at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., at 7 p.m. This meeting will consider the pros & cons of the proposed power plant for the Bayview district, with a speaker from the S.F. Power Company, and an opposing speaker from the community activist group, S.A.G.E.

Starr King Park Board meets the second Wednesday of each month (April 10) in the Potrero Hill Library meeting room at 1616 - 20th St. at 7 p.m. There will be a report on the success of last month's planting day, and plans will be discussed for another planting on April 20, to which all volunteers — past, present and future — are warmly invited. Meet at 10 a.m. on the Carolina St. side (at 23rd St.). Bring work gloves and any tools (shovels, spades, etc.) you wish to use.

PLAN (Potrero League of Active Neighbors) meets on the third Wednesday of each month (April 17) at 7:30 p.m., with executive sessions (this month) and public meeting (next month) on alternate months. The next public meeting will be in May. For more info, call Elizabeth, 826-6359.

Potrero Hill Boosters and Merchants meet the last Tuesday of the month (April 30) 7:30 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at the Potrero Hill Library, 1616-20th St. The agenda this month will center on the long delayed Mission Bay project. A speaker from Catellus will lead off the discussion.

Friends of McKinley Square will be meeting this month to plan the next Spring Cleanup of the park. Volunteers welcome! Call 641-5441 for time & place.



™ Masthead design by Giacomo Patri

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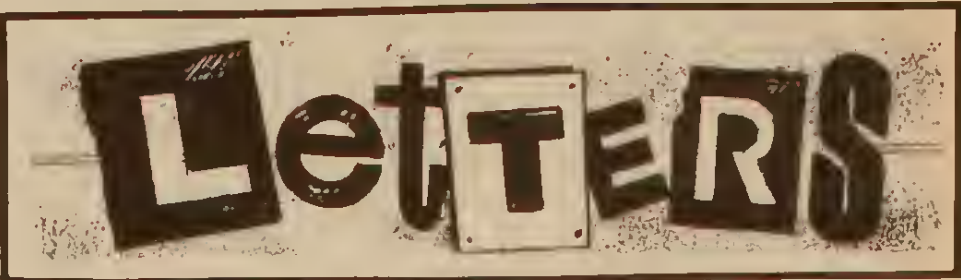
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Petition Scam ?

Editor:

Recently while walking my dog at McKinley Square Park (at 20th and Vermont Streets), I was approached by a man with a petition. He described an imminent bureaucratic atrocity: the city was about to spend a zillion dollars to fence off the park, to remove the beloved swings, to ban dogs entirely. Would I sign his petition and join a group of neighborhood residents committed to keeping the park just as it was? Well, of course I would.

Returning home, I related the experience to my wife, who was appalled. She informed me I'd just unwittingly aligned myself with a petty protest against the Friends of McKinley Square. The Friends have been working with the Recreation and Parks Department to improve the park—to landscape it, irrigate it, tear down the disused bathrooms, to fence off and modernize the playground area. Dogs will be allowed everywhere but in the playground.

I hope that not too many others have been as gullible as I to the petitioners' disinformation. The Friends of McKinley Square have done a great job of keeping the park clean and safe, and this city-sponsored improvement will be a giant step in the right direction.

Peter Delacorte
Rhode Island St.

Domestic Partners

Editor:

I am a San Francisco resident in a life-long, monogamous, committed relationship with my partner, Gale, whom I met and fell in love with in April, 1979. On August 17, 1989, Gale was, through no fault of her own, severely injured in a car accident. Once a person who functioned normally, she has been disabled ever since. Chronic pain and difficulty walking dominate her life.

As her partner, I have none of the tools married heterosexuals have to protect their spouses. I can't put her on my health or disability insurance. As her advocate to medical, legal & bureaucratic professionals, I have been ignored, directly insulted, or told I don't count even though I have power of attorney for medical and legal reasons.

That gay people cannot legally marry and protect their spouses is prejudicial in nature and discriminatory in practice and harks back to when minorities could not legally marry. I urge everyone to consider cases such as that of myself and my partner, and voice your support for the right of gay people to legally marry.

Jeanine K. Reisbig
Castro Street

The 41st
Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition
March 30—April 30, 1996

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LIBRARY NEWS POTRERO BRANCH 1616 20th St. • 695-6640

Closed Monday
Tuesday: 10 am - 9 pm
Wednesday: 1 pm - 9 pm
Thursday: 10 am - 6 pm
Friday: 1 pm - 6 pm
Saturday: Noon - 6 pm



OPENINGS . . .

The 41st Potrero Hill Artists Exhibition opened here on Saturday, March 30, and will continue through the end of the month. The annual art show is the oldest in San Francisco. New artists join the core of longstanding exhibitors, making the show a definite "must see" when you plan itineraries for holiday guests.

. . . AND MORE OPENINGS

On Thursday, April 18, the San Francisco Public Library will open its newly-constructed Main Branch, located at the Civic Center. Library Opening Day, Opening Week and Family Day will feature a series of cultural events and tours of the New Main for booklovers of all ages. Be part of this historic moment — join in the festivities that will inaugurate this stunning new addition to our city's battery of cultural resources. Drop by and get a copy of "At the Public Library" for a schedule of opening events.

CELEBRATE CINCO DE MAYO WITH ALMA FLOR ADA

Award-winning children's book author, folklorist, and Potrero Hill resident Alma Flor Ada will keynote a Cinco de Mayo celebration at the Potrero Branch on Saturday, May 4, at 4 p.m. If you have enjoyed Ada's children's books, you will certainly want to hear her read them aloud to you and the children in your life.

VIDEO DONORS

Many of you have expressed your appreciation of the branch's new video collection. Some have brought videos from your personal collections to donate. Thank you so much — they enhance a growing collection and give others a chance to view the videos you've enjoyed.

NEW FURNISHINGS

The two new love seats in this Reading Room were requested by us several years ago and arrived recently. Fritz Maytag and Phil Rogers of Anchor Steam have been working with us to help refurbish the Children's Room with beanbag chairs, a new armchair, sets of tables and chairs and carpet that we expect to arrive shortly. New display racks are now housing the new videos, and we hope to upgrade as much of the library displays and furniture as we can in the near future. Thanks to everyone who has helped in this effort!

MUNI and BART Tix at Nabe

MUNI and BART tickets are available at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., Mondays through Fridays during office hours, 10 am-4 pm

Senior MUNI: \$8.00
Youth MUNI: \$8.00
Senior BART: \$4.00

For more information, call
826-8080



THE VIEW AT THE LIBRARY

If you are searching for a story that ran in the Potrero View a long time ago, take a look at the bound volumes at the Potrero Branch Library which contain every issue from the very first one in 1970 through December 1991. We will have more recent issues bound in the not-too-distant future, but in the meantime, check with the librarian who may have them on file.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Infant-Toddler Lapsits are Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Preschool Storytimes are Thursdays at 4 p.m. Videos "Ira Sleeps Over" and "King of Cats" will be shown on Wednesday, April 3, at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER

* Buitrago, Fanny. "Senora Honeycomb." With boisterous humor and almost tactile prose, this Colombian novelist tells a bawdy fairy tale about a woman's sexual awakening. Big-hearted pleasure.

* Sencion, Viriato. "They Forged the Signature of God." Slightly disguised depiction of the Dominican Republic's Trujillo-Balaguer regimes that resulted in Balaguer denouncing Sencion, and the prize for this book being denied. Thorough, thought-provoking novel.

* Zola, Emile. "The Belly of Paris." The Belly of Paris is Les Halles, the enormous market built by Baron Haussman in the 1850s. Zola describes its rivers of foodstuffs, and sewers of blood and putrefaction in this volume, available for the first time in the United States. A Zola favorite.

* Bernbach, Jeffrey. "Job Discrimination: How to Fight, How to Win."

* Milani, Abbas. "Tales of Two Cities: a Persian Memoir." An exceptional memoir of a young man's life in modern Iran. That this one turns out to be a breathtaking example of the quiet, selfless flush of the memoirist's art is the reader's sheer good fortune.

* Ozment, Steven E. "The Bughermeister's Daughter: Scandal in a Sixteenth Century Town." An absorbing true story of intrigue, legal battles, filial piety, and social history in 16th-century Germany. Recreates the fascinating confrontation between a respected burghermeister and his free-spirited daughter and an ambiguous heroine.

* Slater, Lauren. "Welcome to my Country." Moving portrayal of a young psychologist's work with her patients. Understanding of her own past mental illness allows her to "go deeper" into their lives.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: BOOKS ON ORDER FOR CHILDREN

* Lester, Helen. "Listen Buddy."

* Perlman, Janet. "The Emperor Penguin's New Clothes."

* Platt, Richard. "Pirate."

* Pfiefer, Kathryn. "The 761st Tank Battalion."

* Steele, Philip. "Thor Heyerdahl and the Kon-Tiki Voyage."

* West, Alan. "Jose Marti: Man of Poetry, Soldier of Freedom."

* Whitelaw, Nancy. "Margaret Sanger: Every Child a Wanted Child."

Toba Singer
Potrero Branch Librarian

TEN YEARS AGO

In The View

HILL FIGHTS HELIPORT. . . AGAIN:

Three years after successfully fighting off a proposed heliport at Pier 70 at the foot of 20th St., in 1986 Potrero Hill residents found themselves again in a battle over the same issue — this time at Pier 54 in China Basin. More than 250 Hill dwellers signed petitions opposing the development, petitions that were delivered to Mayor Dianne Feinstein by Fr. Peter Sammon of St. Teresa's Church. The irate citizenry again asked the City why the southeast neighborhoods are targeted for projects considered undesirable elsewhere.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SLOWLY CHANGING:

Associate Superintendent of Schools Carol Choye stated that after just two months operating under a Consent Decree, Potrero Hill Middle School was beginning to show improvement. Enola D. Maxwell, spokesperson for Friends of the Middle School and Director of the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, agreed, while pointing out that "the potential for greatness is so close to us!" The development of educational goals and curriculum with the use of Consent Decree money were to be worked out in coming months through the combined efforts of faculty, administration and community.

"ARITHMETIC OF MISERY" — EVICTIONS:

The gap between the average rent on apartments from which tenants had been evicted — measured in 1984 to be \$369 per month — and rents for vacant apartments — from \$700 to \$800 per month — illustrated what the S.F. Tenants Union called the "Arithmetic of Misery." A Tenants Union study showed that Potrero Hill had among the highest eviction rates in the City. Spurred by the rising eviction rate, the S.F. Housing and Tenants Council was working on a new campaign to establish some sort of rent regulation for vacated units.

HOW SAFE IN AN EARTHQUAKE?

As the 80th anniversary of the 1906 quake and fire approached, meteorologist Michael Pechner addressed the question. "How safe is the Hill in another major quake? His response: "One of the safest and sturdiest places to be." It's all in the nature of our underpinnings — "very weathered metamorphic rock dating back to perhaps a billion years ago." It absorbs a great deal of the shock waves lessening the danger from the lateral, or horizontal forces of a quake.

THIS AND THAT:

Hill grocer Jack Woo, owner of the Potrero Terrace Market at 23rd and Wisconsin Sts., was elected president of the Golden Gate Neighborhood Grocers Association . . . The Potrero Branch Library and Good Life Grocery co-sponsored a Family Festival on 20th St. . . . Artist John Langley Howard, then 84 and living on the Hill, was having a new exhibit of his work at the Campbell Gallery . . . "Kerouac: The Essence of Jack," a drama about the famous Beat writer, was being presented at the Neighborhood House theater . . . Assemblyman Art Agnos was to host a community meeting on building plans for the old paint factory/Synanon site at 23rd and Kansas Sts. . . . The Potrero Branch Library was conducting Study Skills Workshops, the first program of its kind ever sponsored by a San Francisco branch library.

AND 20 YEARS AGO:

Alma Mefford, "postmistress" of the U.S. Post Office Station #68 at Atchison's Pharmacy, spoke of her 18 years at that post: "We feel as though we live in a little town within a city and we treat each other with more concern for the welfare of all."

— Vas Arnautoff



Potrero Hill Neighborhood House

953 De Haro Street, San Francisco, California 94107

(415) 826-8080

Enola D. Maxwell, Executive Director

ON-GOING MEETINGS:

Al-Anon Thursdays, 6:30 pm
Alcoholics Anonymous Sun/Mon/Thurs, 8:30 pm
Girls/Boys Club Mondays, 4:00 pm
Narcotics Anonymous Wednesdays, 8:00pm
Omega Boys Club Tuesdays, 7:30 pm

FACILITIES:

Auditorium for theatre presentations, lectures, weddings, workshops and receptions
Bulletin board with employment and event listings
Gymnasium and recreational space
Meeting spaces available for use by community groups
Mini-park

ACTIVITIES & SERVICES:

• After School/Summer Youth Activities
• Arts and Crafts
• Food Distribution
• Gang Prevention
• Girls/Boys Club
• Graffiti Paint Out
• Juvenile Probation
• Home Supervision
• Peer Counseling

• MET Theatre Ensemble
• Senior Nutrition Program
• Social Development Center
• Tutoring Program
• Youth Employment
• MYEEP/SYETP
• Job Readiness
• ZAP Project (substance abuse day treatment for adolescents)

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Lone Holdout: Hill Narrowly Rejects Ballpark Plan

By Judy Baston

Perhaps the house on Missouri Street was a harbinger of the political March winds on Potrero Hill. In the house's front window were two competing political signs: "Yes on B: Build the Ballpark," and "No on B: Don't Be Fooled."

When the votes were all counted on March 26, Potrero Hill had come close to reflecting that window, nearly splitting its tally on the heated issue of whether a ballpark should be built in China Basin.

But even though the neighborhood's votes were close, Potrero Hill was the only neighborhood in San Francisco to say "no" to the measure. While Prop. B passed citywide with a 66 percent edge, it lost on Potrero Hill, 53 to 47 percent. There were 1,586 people voting "no" at Hill polling places and 1,403 voting "yes."

Looking at the neighborhood vote on a precinct-by-precinct basis, voters in all but two of Potrero Hill's nine polling places rejected the measure.

Overwhelming "no" votes were cast at Precinct 3802 at Jackson Park, with 104 voting "yes" and 152 "no"; at com-

bined Precincts 3803/3810 at 438 Texas St., with 210 "yes" votes to 339 "no," and at Precinct 3805 at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, where voters cast 143 "yes" ballots and 181 said "no."

Some precinct tallies on the Hill were much closer. Precinct 3801 at the Potrero Hill Middle School, 156-163; Precinct 3804 at 801 Vermont St., 137-139; Precinct 3806 at 512 Connecticut St., 131-148; Precincts 3807/3808 at the Potrero Hill Rec Center, 157-159; and Precinct 3814 at I.M. Scott School, 104-123.

However, voters supported the measure by a tally of 186-128 at Precincts 3811/3812, whose polling place was Starr King School; and by a vote of 57-32 at 1095 Connecticut St. at Precincts 3809/3813.

Perhaps because there has been a history of strong opinions on Potrero Hill about ballpark measures, the neighborhood's voter turnout was somewhat higher than the citywide average, in an election marked by low turnout figures. Ranking eighth out of the 25 neighborhoods into which the Registrar of Voters divides the city, Potrero Hill

showed a voter turnout of 41.3 percent, while the citywide average was 38.9 percent.

At Potrero View press time, figures from the Registrar's office were preliminary and do not include some 5,000

votes cast at polling places other than those to which voters had been assigned. No neighborhood-by-neighborhood totals on state propositions or other races were available from the Registrar at press time.



Juvenile Dept. Status to be Aired Apr. 10

Members of youth-serving agencies in the Potrero Hill area, and those who work with local youth, will be in attendance at a community open discussion April 10, at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St.

There have been charges of overcrowding and inadequate facilities at Youth Guidance Center (YGC), as well as the general mishandling of youth from the

courts to incarceration. A number of families, youth leaders and social workers have brought the situation to light.

The April 10 discussion, which is sponsored by the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice (CJJC), will offer the views of those who know firsthand about the conditions during lock-up.

For information please call the CJJC office at 749-6930.

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FOR FAMILIES, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES, PARENTING CLASSES, AND COMMUNITY ACTION

Sister Kathleen to be Feted By BAOC at Irish Center

By Lysa Allman

Native San Franciscan and 27-year Potrero Hill resident Sister Kathleen Healy, Pastoral Associate of St. Teresa's Catholic Church on Missouri Street, will be honored April 26 by the Bay Area Organizing Committee (BAOC), for her lifelong devotion to achieving peace, justice, dignity and humanity for all people. The dinner will be held at the Irish Cultural Center, 2700 - 45th Ave. at 6 p.m.

As a Sister of the Presentation for more than 52 years, Sister Kathleen is a founding member of, and remains very active in the BAOC, a multi-issue organization of churches, synagogues, unions and neighborhood associations committed to the training and empowerment of people, particularly those of low and moderate incomes.

Emphasizes Sister Kathleen, "in order to counteract living under a system where politicians rule what transpires in society, people must be organized and empowered to fight back."

"When people are organized and have the power in them to make their lives powerful and liveable, then we can accomplish something in this world," she stresses. "Organizing is hard work and people don't always have the fire in them to change things. We are looking for people who have that fire inside."

Sister Kathleen credits her commitment and drive to "protect people of color or minority groups who are victims" to the upbringing she received from her parents, Henna and William Healy. As immigrants from Ireland, they fled to North America because of economic hardships and struggles with the English. She says they implanted in her and her four sisters not only their love for Ireland, but also the sense of how they struggled with, and overcame, their economic and political difficulties.

"It planted a seed in me, and I think that is maybe where my dedication and drive came from," she noted. "They really believed in their civic duty and had a deep faith. My beginning experience was the fun from doing what we did together."

One of Sister Kathleen's current projects is the "Fresh Start" program, an adult tutoring program working

with adults from Potrero Hill public housing in subjects such as GED, literacy, math and computer skills, enabling them to obtain a better or new job. Fresh Start is co-sponsored by St. Teresa's Church, the Housing Authority, Social Services and others, and has formed a collaborative group of tenants from the projects who are hired and trained in childcare. With a current enrollment of 27 people, the program, located in the pink building on Turner Terrace off Missouri Street, has grown into a family center.

Prior to joining St. Teresa's in 1975, Sister Kathleen taught in schools in San Jose and Los Angeles, and taught and served as Principal of St. Agnes' in San Francisco for 12 years. Later, she served for 10 years as Associate Director of Family Life Ministries for the San Francisco Archdiocese, and was involved in the development of the Marriage Preparation Program.

In the early 1980s, Sister Kathleen made several pilgrimages to El Salvador and Guatemala through the Catholic Church, advocating for legal rights for the residents there. "People were losing their lives and people (in America) began to realize that sometimes you have to go against the (U.S.) government to obey God's law. It was a great lesson, and dangerous at the same time. The army was always at your side. I learned so much from the marvelous people down there."

Sister Kathleen's work also included efforts to pass the City Refugee Ordinance in 1989, which denied police, schools, hospitals and social service agencies the right to request citizenry status and/or documentation from any individual. Currently, she is working with members of the Black community and Wells Fargo Bank toward obtaining low interest construction monies to increase homeownership opportunities in low-income communities.

Of the April 26 dinner honoring her, Sister Kathleen emphasizes that "the honor given to me really goes to many more people than me — to the people who want to change this world for the better and have supported me in all we have done."

For more information about the Bay Area Organizing Committee or the honorary dinner, please contact Rose Marie Ostler at 641-9332.

SEYMOUR SHOW SET



Potrero Hill resident Sally Seymour is one of the artists whose paintings will be displayed in the Hunters Point Shipyard Artists 5th anniversary Spring Open Studio, May 4-5. Other Hill artists in this Open Studio include Carolyn Crampton, Carol Satriani and JoeSam. Self-guided tours at the Shipyard begin both days at 11 a.m. Throughout the week-end visitors can see 80 artists' studios, 12 artist demonstrations and performances, and can bid in a silent auction. The Hunters Point Shipyard is located at the end of Evans Street, south of Chavez (formerly Army) Street, or take Muni #19 into the shipyard. For more information call 822-3809.



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New Main Library -The Potrero Hill Connection

When the new Main Library opens at Civic Center April 18, San Franciscans will be treated with a view not only of a magnificent building but of large installations of art. Three of these pieces are the products of a neighborhood concern, Rocket Science at 1300 - 22nd St., a custom shop specializing in the fabrication and installation of art. Rocket Science does much of its work for the entertainment industry, building sets for rock concerts and the like.

The library installations include a panel 54 feet tall by nine feet wide by San Francisco artist Nayland Blake and two sheet aluminum constructions by New Yorker Alice Aycock.

The "Blake Wall" incorporates fiber-

optic technology to light plaques with authors' names, which are set out from the surface of the wall. Currently some 160 names are in place, with room for 240 more. The panel is encircled by the library's main staircase, which rises on one side of a central atrium and, topped by a peaked skylight, allows natural light to illuminate the center of the building.

The Aycock pieces, one of which also acts as a staircase, are on separate floors but again set close to the atrium.

Rocket Science is headed up by A.W. Nickols. Installation foreman on the library work is Steve Dobbs, with the T. J. McHose in charge of the fabrication and fiber optics technology.

- V.A.

Photos (clockwise from upper right): The "Blake Wall" surrounded by the main staircase in the central atrium of the new Main Library; detail of the "Blake Wall" showing placement of plaques with author's names. Some in this shot: Lillian Hellman, Linus Pauling, Studs Terkel, Ed Bullins; back of the wall with the fiber optic connectors which illuminate the plaques — another visual treat for the stair climber.

Photos by Vas Arnautoff



The San Francisco History Assn. presents a slide and lecture program about the 1906 Earthquake, April 18 at 7:30 p.m., in The Cannery, 3rd Fl., at 2801 Leavenworth St. Guest speaker Richard Hansen has been conducting research on earthquakes for more than 20 years, and has served as the official photographer to the S.F. Fire Dept., as well as being a scientific photographer. Members are admitted free, and there is a door charge of \$5 for others. For more info call 750-9986.

Join others in a party celebrating Earth Day, April 21, at the Community Gardens at the end of Connecticut Street at 22nd Street. The event is from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more info, call Mia Amata, 285-6807.

THE S.F. Community HealthCorps members in action will spruce up the AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park on April 20, and they welcome other volunteer help in the project. For info call 243-3400 ext. 32.

In celebration of their 16th anniversary, Food Not Bombs will hold a free concert at the Band Shell in Golden Gate Park on Sat., April 27, from noon to 6 p.m. People are invited to set up information and craft tables at the event. Call 985-7087 for more info.

Youth for Service announces a new class in Computer Repair for Youth, ages 16-17 beginning April 8. This free class is open to all youth in S.F. and will teach the basics of computer hardware and software. No prior knowledge is required, and enrollment is limited. The class is 10 weeks for two hours, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. Application forms are available at Youth for Service, 25 - 14th St. from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. A free 286 computer will be given to students who attend regularly and successfully complete the course. For more info on the program call Ron Freemire or Leroy Woods at 621-5555.

A cooking demonstration of traditional Filipino and Chinese food takes place at the Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro St., April 9, from 10 a.m., before the regular senior citizen lunch program. Program coordinator Alicia Soberano will be the main cook.



An old-fashioned "Swap Meet" will be held on April 13, at the offices of the Children's Council of S.F. at One Second Street, 4th floor. The event is free to all San Francisco parents and childcare providers. Participants will have the opportunity to swap clothing, toys and related items, and will probably leave with an equivalent amount of goods as was brought in. Contact the Children's Council at 243-0111 to arrange for free childcare and other information.

Hospice by the Bay, a nonprofit community based organization serving San Francisco and San Mateo Counties, is accepting enrollment for a 10-week family bereavement program beginning April 9. It is free for parents and children who have experienced a loss through death within the past two years. The sessions will be held from 6-8 p.m. at 1540 Market St. near Van Ness Avenue. For more info call 626-5900.

Volunteers are needed to participate in a study of how individuals with Type II diabetes and their spouses or partners manage to care for their disease in the home. Participants must be between 26 and 60 years of age, have no other medical complications, and have had a diagnosis of adult-onset diabetes for more than one year and fewer than nine years. Volunteers will be compensated \$100. The study is a collaborative project among UCSF, the California Pacific Medical Group and S.F. Kaiser Permanente. For more info call 476-1925.

The families of Miraloma Co-op Nursery School invite parents to visit their red schoolhouse at an open house April 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. The school is located at 443 Foerster St. (at Joost), in the Sunny-side District. Parents who can't attend the open house but want to know more about Miraloma may call enrollment assistant Jane Schafgans, 239-7416 for info.

A free course covering anxiety and stress is offered to the public on Monday, April 8, at 6:30 p.m. at the Everett Middle School, 450 Church St. The classes are sponsored by the S.F. Community College, Health Science Dept. For info call 585-5212.

A series of films documenting the life and work of union leaders Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta and the United Farm Workers will be seen in a United Farm Workers' Film Festival April 13 at the Victoria Theater, 2916-16th St. The show begins at 7:30 p.m., and proceeds from the event go to retire the Cesar Chavez Street campaign debt. General admission is \$10 adults; \$5 under 18 years. For more info call 681-8462.

The S.F. Public Library is recruiting volunteers to take materials to homebound patrons with AIDS/HIV. Free training is available for the Friends for Life volunteers who take books to library patrons, and only three to six hours a week are required. For more info call 557-4280.

Women volunteers are needed for a study on osteoporosis at UCSF. Participants should be at least five years past the onset of menopause, between the ages of 55-75, and not on estrogen replacement therapy. For more info about this study call Margaret O'Sullivan, RN. at 476-1449.

Bring old, used and/or unwanted glasses to The San Francisco Home Services Center at 1740 Market St. Their program "Give Your Unwanted Eyeglasses to People Who Need Them" is an annual recycling program to provide free eye-care and glasses to needy people throughout the world. For info call 252-5360.

Bay Area book artists will be celebrated in a showcase at the new Civic Center S.F. Public Library April 18-June 9. The exhibition is on the sixth floor atrium gallery, and will showcase the works of more than 50 book artists, calligraphers, bookbinders, and printers.

The Pacific Rim Sculptors Group (PRSG) opens a new exhibit "Speaking of Her: Environmental Concerns for the Future" at the Contract Design Center Sculpture Courtyard, 600 Townsend St. This exhibit is sponsored by the sculptors' group, and the Contract Design Center. PRSG, an artist-run organization provides exhibition opportunities and technical support for regional sculptors, and presents four exhibitions of members' works each year in the outdoor courtyard of the Design Center. For more info call 285-6431.

"The Ides of March," paintings of male and female torsos will be on exhibit by artist John Charles Barney, 1045-17th St. (at Mississippi). Call 487-5428 for more info.

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VERY CUTE...



The "Very Cute Baby Animals This Spring" exhibit by Hill artist Judy Gittelsohn, opens April 22 at a new organic produce store, Dig It, at 301 Arkansas St. Artist Gittelsohn explains that she was inspired to paint babies, and animals as babies, after the birth of daughter Daisy. A reception for the artist takes place 5-7 p.m. on opening day.

GOAT HILL EXHIBIT



There will be an artist's reception April 14, 2-4 p.m. at Goat Hill Pizza, for an exhibit of sketches by Ralph E. Anderson. His oil paintings have hung in galleries in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Goat Hill Pizza is at 300 Connecticut St. For more information contact Wynn Newberry at 641-1440.

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Mime Troupe to Stage Free Musical at Nabe

The San Francisco Mime Troupe will present its newest musical "Gotta Getta Life," in a free performance April 27, at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 DeHaro St., at 2 p.m.

This second phase of a Mime Troupe project with San Francisco State University Theatre (SESU) Arts Department is funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. With students at SFSU, the Mime Troupe taught workshops for at-risk youth at five after school programs in the city. Each group created its own short plays and then premiered an original work during the first annual "Youth Theatre Festival" Feb. 11 at the Cowell Theatre at Ft. Mason.

The April 27 program "Gotta Getta Life," is drawn from the youth-created plays and student responses to each other's work. It was written by Mime Troupe playwright Gregory R. Tate and performed by a mixed cast of Mime Troupe regulars and SFSU students, with accompaniment by the Troupe's three-piece band.

"Gotta Getta Life" tells the story of Thelma, a young African-American woman who is trying to break out of a cycle of drug abuse and violence and make a life for herself. Another character in the play is Anastasia, a recent Russian immigrant, trying to fit in but rejected by those whose friendship she seeks. A series of misunderstandings and escalating gossip forces the girls into conflict.



Actors Jamie Walker, Velina Brown, and Gina Seghi taunt the new girl at school (Amanda Duarte) in the S.F. Mime Troupe's production of "Gotta Getta Life." The Troupe will give a free performance at the Potrero Hill Neighborhood House on Saturday, April 27 at 2 p.m.
Lance W. Keimig photo

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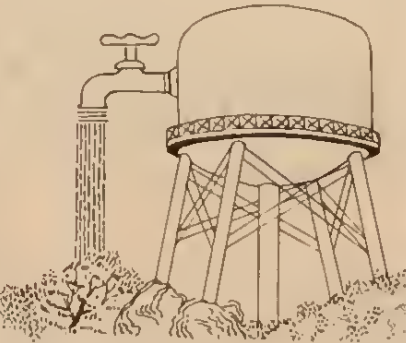
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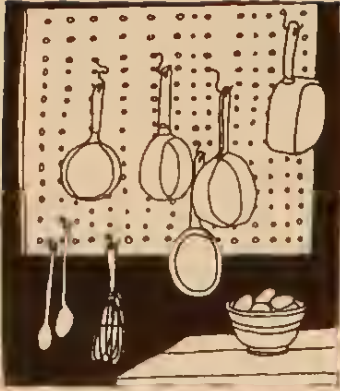
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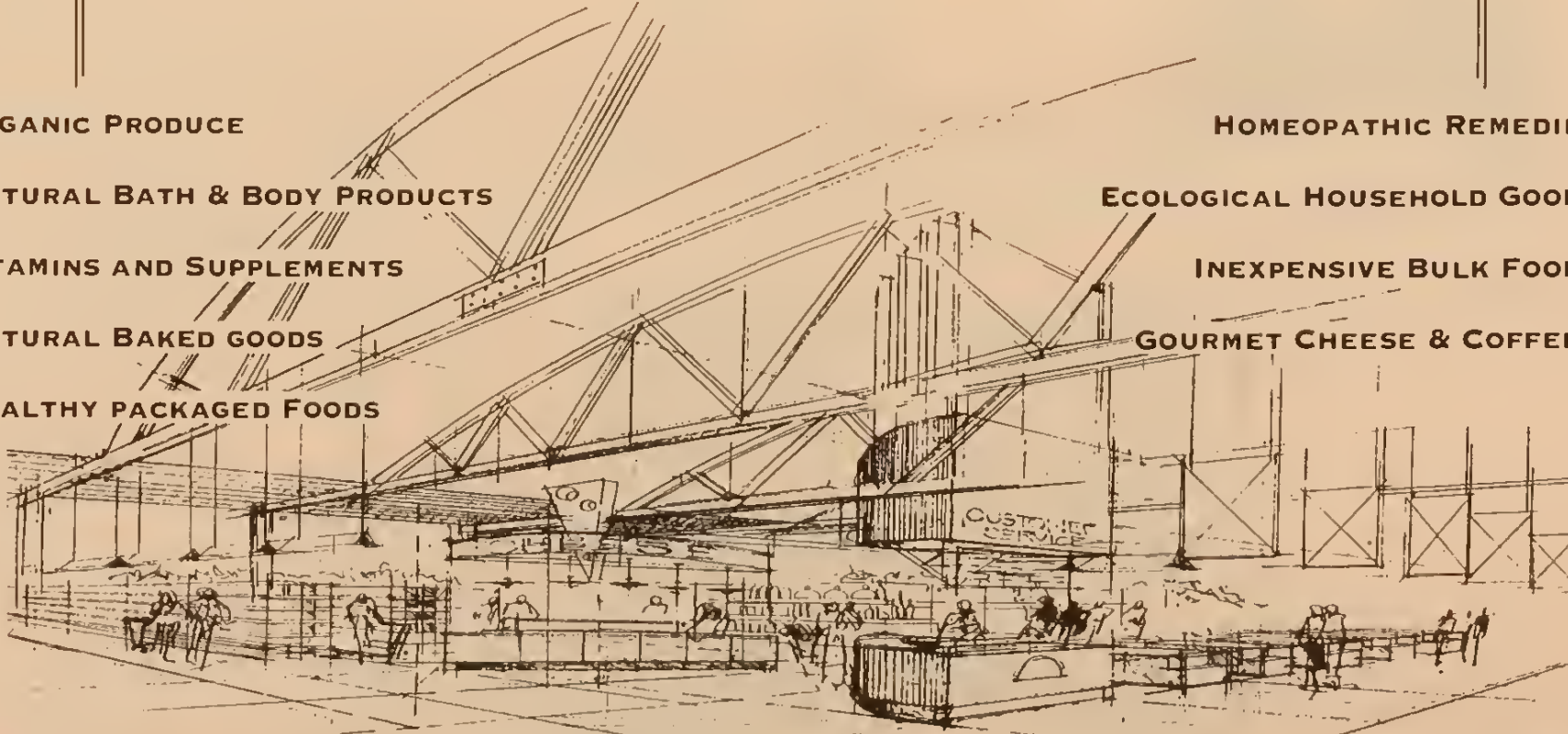
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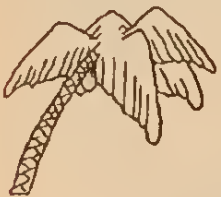
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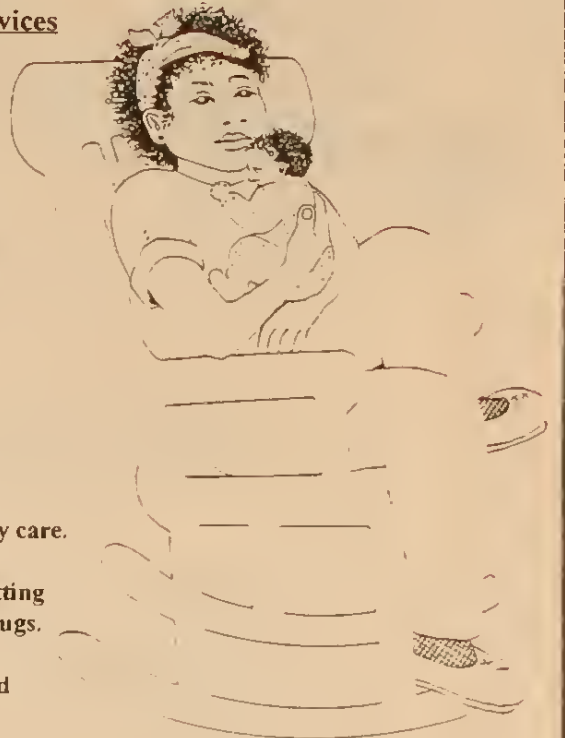
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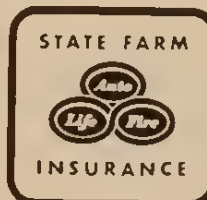
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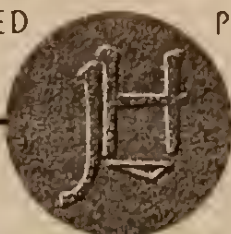


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